

- In the disposable diaper according to this invention, the fastener sections are formed by fusing the male members of the mechanical fasteners to the nonwoven fabric of the rear sheet. However, a user can quickly anchor the male members on the female members as the female members are larger than the male members even if the male members are of a relatively small size. This is because the fastener sections and the vicinity thereof are formed with the fusion spots at a sufficiently high density to improve the stiffness thereof.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;
 a liquid-impervious backsheet;
 a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet;
 a front waist region;
 a rear waist region;
 a crotch region extending between said front waist region and said rear waist region in a longitudinal direction of the diaper;
 wings formed on transversely opposite side portions of said rear waist region and extending outward in a circumferential direction intersecting said longitudinal direction; and
 fastener sections formed on said wings and extending outward in said circumferential direction and provided on inner surfaces thereof with male mechanical fastener members,
 said wings comprising a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fibers, said nonwoven fabric partially extending outward from circumferentially outer side regions of said

Sub BT
cont.
cont.
wings to form said fastener sections which are, in turn, provided on inner surfaces thereof with said male mechanical fastener members,

said wings being formed on the inner surfaces thereof with a plurality of fine fusion spots at which said fibers are fused together, said plurality of fine fusion spots being arranged so that there is a greater number of said fine fusion spots per unit area in said outer side regions of said wings than in inner regions of said wings that extend inward from said outer side regions.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric is stiffer in said outer side regions of said wings than in said inner side regions of said wings.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said male mechanical fastener members are peelably engaged with said inner side regions of said wings.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A⁹
--A disposable diaper having a pair of wings that are formed from a nonwoven fabric that partially extends outward in a circumferential direction to form fastener sections which are, in turn, provided on its inner surfaces with male members of mechanical fasteners. The nonwoven fabric is formed on the inner surface thereof with a plurality of fine fusion spots so that the number of the fine fusion spots per unit area of the inner surfaces is larger in the fastener sections and first regions than in second regions extending inside the first regions.